

GROUNDFISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2007-2008 GROUNDFISH FISHERIES—PART II

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) considered the kinds of management measures that should be explored for use in meeting conservation objectives for the 2007-2008 fishery. The following should be used as a general guide for structuring alternatives for consideration.

In general,

- the GAP supports evaluation of additional boundaries so that they may be available for consideration, and
- a coast wide Petrale optimum yield (OY) with a management line at 40°10' and harvest guidelines north and south.

The GAP opposes the Washington troller lingcod retention allowance because it may potentially encourage targeting and the attendant increases in impacts on yelloweye and canary.

Limited Entry Trawl

See the appended trip limit table for an example of the kinds of season structures and depth restrictions that should be explored in the development of management measures to meet conservation objectives. In general, the trawl representatives on the GAP would like to see a reduction in front loading of fishing opportunities in order to maintain a year-round fishing opportunity.

Consider

- a 250 fathom (fm) line south of 38°
- a 180 fm line coastwide
- regional management of Petrale sole

The GAP understands that an analysis of a restriction limiting vessels to a single trawl gear type per two month period may be useful. However, the GAP is not in agreement that such a provision should be implemented.

Open Access and Limited Entry Fixed Gear

Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs)	
North of OR/WA Border	
Consider a range of seaward lines: 100 fm, 125 fm, 150 fm, and 200 fm	
OR/WA Border to 34°27'	
Option A	20 to 200 fm
Option B (preferred)	30 to 150 fm
Option C	40 to 120 fm
South of 34°27'	

Informational Item 5 part 2

Option A		40 to 180 fm				
Option B (preferred)		60 to 150 fm				
Option C		80 to 120 fm				
Trip Limits		Pounds per 2-months.				
	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec
<u>Minor Nearshore (NS) Rockfish</u>		Limited Entry and Open Access Fixed Gear				
OR/CA Border to 40°10'						
Option A		Year-round: 4,000 pounds of minor nearshore rockfish per two months of which no more than 1,200 pounds could be other than blacks and blues.				
Option B		Year-round: 8,000 pounds of minor nearshore rockfish per two months of which no more than 2,000 pounds could be other than blacks and blues.				
<u>Shallow NS Rockfish</u>		Limited Entry and Open Access Fixed Gear				
40°10' of 34°27'						
Option A	200	Closed	400	500	400	200
Option B (SQ)	300	Closed	500	600	500	300
Option C	400	Closed	600	700	600	400
S of 34°27'						
Option A	200	Closed	400	500	400	200
Option B (SQ)	300	Closed	500	600	500	300
Option C	400	Closed	600	700	600	400
<u>Deep NS Rockfish</u>		Limited Entry and Open Access Fixed Gear				
40°10' to 34°27'						
Option A	400	Closed	400	400	300	400
Option B (SQ)	500	Closed	500	500	800	500
Option C	600	Closed	600	600	800	600
S of 34°27'						
Option A	400	Closed	500	500	500	300
Option B (SQ)	500	Closed	600	600	600	400
Option C	600	Closed	600	600	600	500
<u>California Scorpion Fish</u>		Limited Entry and Open Access Fixed Gear				
S of 34°27'						
Option A	300	Closed	300	300	300	300
Option B	500	Closed	500	500	500	500
Option C	700	Closed	700	700	700	700
<u>Shelf Rockfish</u>		Limited Entry and Open Access Fixed Gear				
OR/CA Border to 40°10'						
Option A	200	200	200	200	200	200
Option B	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
40°10' to 34°27'						
Option A	200	Closed	200	200	200	200
Option B (SQ)	300	Closed	200	200	300	300
Option C	400	Closed	300	300	400	400

Informational Item 5 part 2

S of 34°27'			Limited Entry Fixed Gear			
Option A	2,000	Closed	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Option B (SQ)	3,000	Closed	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Option C	4,000	Closed	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
			Open Access Fixed Gear			
Option A	500	Closed	500	500	500	500
Option B (SQ)	750	Closed	750	750	750	750
Option C	1,000	Closed	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Bocaccio	Limited Entry and Open Access Fixed Gear					
40°10' to 34°27'						
Option A	200	Closed	200	200	200	200
Option B (SQ)	300	Closed	300	300	300	300
Option C	400	Closed	400	400	400	400
S of 34°27'			Limited Entry Fixed Gear			
Option A	200	Closed	200	200	200	200
Option B (SQ)	300	Closed	300	300	300	300
Option C	400	Closed	400	400	400	400
			Open Access Fixed Gear			
Option A	50	Closed	50	50	50	50
Option B (SQ)	100	Closed	100	100	100	100
Option C	200	Closed	200	200	200	200

Lingcod—Limited Entry and Open Access Fixed Gear

North of 40°10'

For all options: Evaluate zero to 20, 30, and 40 fm lines
 Trip limits of 300 lbs/month to 1,000 lbs/month
 Size limits of 0"-24" with size limits equal to the sport size limits

Option A 6 month season, May-Oct
 Option B 8 month season, March-October
 Option C 12 month season

40°10' to US-Mex

For all options: Evaluate zero to 20 and 30 fm lines
Open Access: Trip limits of 300 lbs/mo to 400 lbs/mo
Limited Entry: 400 lbs/mo
 Size limits of 22"-24"

Option A 6 month season, May-Oct
 Option B 10 month season, CLOSED March-April

Sablefish--Limited Entry and Open Access Fixed Gear

Informational Item 5 part 2

Analyze a year round fishery with the largest possible trip limits which would not be expected to exceed the OY.

Informational Item 5 part 2

Shortspine Thornyheads

S of 34°27'—Open Access Fixed Gear

Option A: 50 lbs/day and 1,000 lbs per 2 months

Option B: 200 lbs/day and 2,000 lbs per 2 months

S of 34°27'—Limited Entry Fixed Gear

Option A: 2,000 lbs per 2 months

Option B: 3,500 lbs per 2 months

Longspine Thornyheads--Limited Entry and Open Access Fixed Gear

S of 34°27'

Status quo.

Recreational Fishery

Management Lines

- Evaluate a management line at Point Arena.
- Consider use of existing lines at Pedro Point and Pigeon Point

Gear Regulations

Consider the following, along with any other restrictions that might enhance fishing opportunity.

- Consider requiring light weights (6 oz max) when fishing over greater than 20 fm
- No bait
- Hex bars
- Recompression release devices.

Washington Recreational

Ideal outcome: Maximize take of lingcod within current rockfish bag and minimizing take of yelloweye/canary rockfish.

Tools for analysis: in no particular order of importance. With commentary on reasoning.

1. Analyze lines at 22 fm, 25 fm, and 30 fm for shoreward impacts of canary/yelloweye. Ideally break down analysis into respective impacts based on coastal areas 1, 2, 3, 4. Lines may be appropriate for high/low OY options of yelloweye for inseason action.
2. Consider no retention of lingcod/rockfish outside of closure line with halibut onboard. Reduces targeting of lingcod in areas where impacts of overfished species are greatest.
3. Consider no retention of lingcod outside of closure line in any month. Impacts of species of concern are greater while targeting lingcod. This would allow fishing for abundant midwater or schooling rockfish deeper with greatly reduced impacts on canary/yelloweye. This could be especially effective between 22 fm and 50 fm.
4. Consider up to four fish retention of lingcod; with and without minimum size. Abundance of lingcod is extremely high, this could be tailored for use in areas with less canary/yelloweye impacts.
5. Designate more yelloweye conservation areas such as the one in northern WA. This would also lessen canary impacts.
6. Consider early closure lines with inseason liberalization, most impacts on species of concern occur before July 1. Effort shifts to salmon around the same time.
7. Consider status quo for areas with least impact on species of concern. Especially areas where enforceability is not as difficult.
8. Reopen discussion of halibut “boxes”, or hotspots where halibut could be targeted cleanly in conjunction with closure lines.

We are making the assumption that even at the high OY option for yelloweye rockfish, this is still the constraining stock for recreational, and crafting options to avoid canary would be redundant.

Informational Item 5 part 2

The push to increase lingcod take is solely a balancing measure to attract anglers, but does not mean that every person will take more. Commercial passenger fishing vessel catch of lingcod would increase little with proficient anglers giving away less fish and taking home more, perhaps giving the less successful angler more time to catch their own.

Public perception is everything in recreational fisheries, and negative press seems to cause more hardship and economic loss than many management measures. Most options here could be implemented with little impacts on catch per unit of effort (CPUE) for healthy stocks, while greatly reducing impacts on species of concern, but the economic hardship caused will be devastating. Current management measures have coastal communities struggling; these options are stopgap measures to keep this fishery open, not the new mean for a viable and stable economy.

The use of specific options for each OY of yelloweye at this time seems premature, suffice it to say we would like to see as little of these options used as possible.

Oregon Recreational

Option A: Year Round

- 8 marine fish bag limit
- 2 lingcod bag limit, min 24" limit
- 0-20 fathoms
- Allow retention of canary and yelloweye

Option B: Year Round

- 6 marine fish bag limit
- 3-4 lingcod bag limit, min 22" limit
- 0-40 fathoms
- Allow retention of canary and yelloweye with a sub-bag of 1 each

Option C: Year Round

- 5 marine fish bag limit
- 3-4 lingcod bag limit, no size limit
- All depths, consider hotspot closures with yelloweye as the primary consideration
- No retention of canary and yelloweye

Also Consider:

- benefits of recompression release devices
- an option with an opening to 30 fathoms
- rockfish bag limit reductions

Informational Item 5 part 2

California Recreational

The California recreational options include evaluation of the benefits of recompression release devices. The following should also be explored:

- Some retention of overfished species (e.g. first 10 rockfish/cabazon/greenling(RCG))

OR/CA Border to 40°10' Recreational

Year-round fishing
10 rockfish/cabazon/greenling bag limit (including canary and yelloweye)
2 or 3 lingcod bag limit, 22"-24" limit

Depth Restrictions	Analyze mortalities related to the following depth restrictions, with and without recompression devices					
	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec
Option A	0-20 fm	0-20 fm	0-20 fm	0-20 fm	0-20 fm	0-20 fm
Option B	0-30 fm	0-30 fm	0-30 fm	0-30 fm	0-30 fm	0-30 fm
Option C	0-40 fm	0-40 fm	0-40 fm	0-40 fm	0-40 fm	0-40 fm

40°10' to 34°27' Recreational

Option A

July-Dec

10 RCG bag limit
2 lingcod bag limit, 24" limit
0-20 fathoms, no lingcod in December

Option B

Jan-Feb

10 RCG bag limit
2 or 3 lingcod bag limit, 22"-24" limit
0-30 fathoms, avoid canary hot spots outside 20 fathoms (to be defined)

July-Dec – same as Jan-Feb except

0-20 fathoms

Option C

Jan-May

10 RCG bag limit
2 or 3 lingcod bag limit, 22"-24" limit
0-40 fathoms, avoid canary hot spots outside 20 fathoms (to be defined)
and/or use recompression release devices.

Jun-Dec – same as Jan-May except

0-30 fathoms

Informational Item 5 part 2
South 34°27' Recreational

10 RCG bag limit

2 or 3 lingcod bag limit, 22"-24" limit

Scorpionfish open when rockfish open (5 fish bag)

	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec
Option 1 (Status Quo)	Closed	0-60 fm	0-60 fm	0-60 fm	0-30 fm	0-60 fm
Option 2	Closed	0-50 fm	0-50 fm	0-50 fm	0-30 fm	0-60 fm
Option 3	Closed	0-30 fm	0-30 fm	0-30 fm	0-30 fm	0-30 fm or Closed